

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 03322 081355Z

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TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJ: CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS

REF: BA A-131

SUMMARY: VATICAN APPOINTS A SENIOR DIPLOMAT AS PAPAL NUNCIO IN BA. THIRD WORLD PRIESTS AFTER LONG PERIOD OF PUBLIC SILENCE MAKE A RELATIVELY MILD STATEMENT WHICH PRAISED PERONIST GOVERNMENT IN SOME AREAS WHILE CRITICIZING IT IN OTHERS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE VATICAN HAS NAMED MONSIGNOR PIO LAGHI TO BE ITS AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES. LAGHI, WHO WILL BE 52 THIS MONTH, IS DESCRIBED BY THE PRESS AS A SENIOR VATICAN DIPLOMAT. WHILE THE GOA HAS NOT YET NAMED AN AMBASSADOR TO THE VATICAN, LAGHI'S APPOINTMENT SHOULD SUFFICE TO END RUMORS OF LOW-KEY GOA-BATICAN FRICTION.

2. AFTER A LONG ABSENCE FROM THE PUBLIC VIEW, THE THIRD WORLD PRIESTS OF ARGENTINA ON APR 29 ISSUED A STATEMENT ANALYZING THE "PRESENT NATIONAL REALITY". THE STATEMENT STRESSED THAT THE GROUP WAS NEITHER AN OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE CHURCH NOR AN ENLIGHTENED ELITE MINORITY BUT RATHER A GROUP PUTTING FORTH ITS IDEAS ON CURRENT EVENTS. THE PRIESTS

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 03322 081355Z

PRAISED THE PRESENT GOVERNMENTS PROGRAMS IN HOUSING, ITS

EFFORTS TO STIMULATE POPULATION GROWTH AND ITS "BRILLIANT"
POLICIES TOWARD THE US WHICH FAVOR LA INTEGRATION AND SELF
DETERMINATION.

3. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, THE STATEMENT CHARACTERIZED THOSE WHO
CAUSE SHORTAGES OF ESSENTIAL PRODUCTS AS CRIMINALS, CHARGED
THE POLICE WITH USING EXCESSIVE FORCE IN DEALING WITH COMMON
CRIMINALS AND SUBVERSIVES AND FINALLY, BLAMED ARMED GROUP OF
THE LEFT AND RIGHT FOR KEEPING THE POPULACE IN A STATE OF
TURMOIL.

4. COMMENT: WHILE THE THRUST OF THE THIRD WORLD POSITION
IS DECIDELY TO THE LEFT OF THE PERONIST GOVERNMENT THE TONE
OF THE STATEMENT INDICATES THEY SEEK NO CONFRONTATION WITH
PERON.
HILL

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